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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 3 January 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The forces of Israel, the occupying Power, committed yet another crime against the Palestinian people with the barbaric killing of three Palestinian teenagers in the Gaza Strip. On Sunday, 30 December 2001, three Palestinian boys, Mohammed Al Madhoun, Mohammed Lubad and Ahmed Banat, were attacked by Israeli tank fire and then apparently were beaten, tortured and stabbed to death with knives.

Initially, the Israeli army claimed that the three boys had opened fire on one of its military vehicles, but then retracted that statement, claiming they were carrying a bag thought to be explosives and thus the Israeli soldiers decided to hit them with tank fire. Such disparate statements reveal deceit in Israeli accounts of this incident. Moreover, when the bodies of the boys were finally handed to the Palestinian side today — four days since the killings — medical examinations confirmed that, in addition to the shrapnel wounds, the victims had been stabbed probably while alive and that heavy objects were used to crush the heads or a vehicle had run over the bodies.

Since the statement by President Arafat on 16 December 2001, calling for a complete cessation of all military activities, the Israeli occupying forces have killed 20 Palestinians. These killings have occurred at a time when no Israelis have been killed. Further, Israeli troops raided additional areas under Palestinian control at least nine times during this period and abducted at least 50 Palestinians. These incessant Israeli violations clearly reveal that it is the Israeli side that is not taking serious and necessary steps for a cessation of violence in order to calm the dangerous situation on the ground. On the contrary, the Israeli Government persists with its military assault against the Palestinian people as it continues to perpetuate the violence and continues to evade implementation of the Mitchell recommendations.

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Israeli war crimes and State terrorism against the Palestinian people must cease. Israel, the occupying Power, cannot be allowed to continue to blatantly violate international law and international humanitarian law with impunity. The international community must bear its responsibilities in this regard. It must do so before more innocent lives are lost and before this volatile situation worsens and destabilizes the entire region.

In follow-up to my previous 86 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, dated from 29 December 2000 to 26 December 2001 (A/55/432-S/2000/921; A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025; A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185; A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1206; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES-10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2001/131; A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156; A/ES-10/60-S/2001/175; A/ES-10/61-S/2001/189; A/ES-10/64-S/2001/209; A/ES-10/65-S/2001/226; A/ES-10/66-S/2001/239; A/ES-10/67-S/2001/255; A/ES-10/68-S/2001/284; A/ES-10/69-S/2001/295; A/ES-10/70-S/2001/304; A/ES-10/71-S/2001/314; A/ES-10/72-S/2001/332; A/ES-10/75-S/2001/352; A/ES-10/76-S/2001/372; A/ES-10/79-S/2001/418; A/ES-10/80-S/2001/432; A/ES-10/81-S/2001/447; A/ES-10/82-S/2001/463; A/ES-10/83-S/2001/471; A/ES-10/84-S/2001/479; A/ES-10/85-S/2001/486; A/ES-10/86-S/2001/496; A/ES-10/87-S/2001/504; A/ES-10/88-S/2001/508; A/ES-10/89-S/2001/544; A/ES-10/90-S/2001/586; A/ES-10/91-S/2001/605; A/ES-10/92-S/2001/629; A/ES-10/93-S/2001/657; A/ES-10/94-S/2001/669; A/ES-10/95-S/2001/686; A/ES-10/96-S/2001/697; A/ES-10/97-S/2001/708; A/ES-10/98-S/2001/717; A/ES-10/99-S/2001/742; A/ES-10/100-S/2001/754; A/ES-10/101-S/2001/783; A/ES-10/102-S/2001/785; A/ES-10/103-S/2001/798; A/ES-10/104-S/2001/812; A/ES-10/105-S/2001/814; A/ES-10/107-S/2001/821; A/ES-10/108-S/2001/826; A/ES-10/111-S/2001/880; A/ES-10/112-S/2001/918; A/ES-10/114-S/2001/928; A/ES-10/115-S/2001/932; A/ES-10/116-S/2001/941; A/ES-10/117-S/2001/971; A/ES-10/118-S/2001/989; A/ES-10/119-S/2001/991; A/ES-10/121-S/2001/1007; A/ES-10/122-S/2001/1024; A/ES-10/123-S/2001/1036; A/ES-10/124-S/2001/1084; A/ES-10/125-S/2001/1092; A/ES-10/126-S/2001/1118; A/ES-10/128-S/2001/1149; A/ES-10/129-S/2001/1166; A/ES-10/133-S/2001/1239 and A/ES-10/134-S/2001/1261), I regret to inform you that 10 more Palestinians, including the 3 mentioned above, have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces, raising the total number of Palestinians killed since 28 September 2001 to 842 martyrs. (The names of the martyrs are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 3 January 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem[a] (Saturday, 22 December to Monday, 31 December 2001)

Saturday, 22 December 2001

Wissam Majdy Muhareb (died from wounds sustained on 12 December 2001)

Monday, 24 December 2001

Jamil Mohammed Hamad Abu Atwan

Wednesday, 26 December 2001

Waleed Kamal El Sa'ady

Sunday, 30 December 2001

1. Nejood Mohammed Ghoneim
2. Mohammed Abdel Rahman Al Madhoun (17 years old)
3. Mohammed Ahmed Mahmoud Lubad (17 years old)
4. Ahmed Mohammed Banat (17 years old)

Monday, 31 December 2001

1. Ismail Abdallah Abu Al Qomsan
2. Ali Asaad Mihana
3. Mahmoud Mohammed Saleh

[a] The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 842.